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FBI's Hoover

(New York Herald Tribune)

In pinning the National Security Medal to the lapel of J. Edgar Hoover, President Eisenhower was paying merited tribute to a task performed efficiently and quietly for many years by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and its able director. The only other recipient of this medal has been Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, who was honored for his accomplishments as director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In citing Mr. Hoover, the President took note of his devotion to "the highest ideals of federal law enforcement," a devotion which has served the nation well during 31 years on the job.

It is one of the indications of the vitality of a democratic system that a law enforcement agency such as the FBI can perform its duties without depriving citizens of their rights and without abrogating excessive powers to itself. Under the responsible leadership of Mr. Hoover, the FBI has operated within the framework of a free society and at the same time made its name feared and hated by criminal and subversive elements. His is an honor well deserved.